



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

News Release

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ATTAINS \$389,425 NATIONAL EMERGENCY GRANT TO ASSIST DISPLACED WORKERS FROM MOLOKA'I RANCH

HONOLULU – The Hawai'i Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) has been awarded a \$389,425 National Emergency Grant (NEG) from the U.S. Department of Labor. The NEG will enable the DLIR to assist approximately 56 workers from Moloka'i who were dislocated by the closing of Moloka'i Ranch, which is owned by Moloka'i Properties Limited. The DLIR applied for the NEG in order to provide urgent assistance to employees who were laid off.

On March 24, 2008, Moloka'i Ranch issued a notice announcing the closure of their business on May 23, 2008. The DLIR, in concert with other state agencies, dispatched State Rapid Response teams that met with the Moloka'i Ranch employees on March 27, 2008, to inform them of the available employment services.

The total number of employees laid off by Moloka'i Ranch was 117. However, an estimated 56 employees have been identified as in need of the DLIR's services under the NEG. The NEG will be used to provide an array of services for these dislocated workers, including skills assessment, individual counseling, career planning, employment development, occupational skills training, on-the-job training, entrepreneurial training, job-readiness training and adult education. Participants may also be provided training in high-demand industries to include health care, construction and commercial truck driving. Project participants may also receive out-of-area job search assistance,

relocation assistance and other related supportive services. Support services may include childcare, transportation assistance and job related certifications, uniforms and equipment.

"This National Emergency Grant will help the state meet its obligation to these workers to ensure that they are given every possible opportunity to find meaningful employment and have the ability to provide for themselves and their families during this unfortunate period," said Darwin L.D. Ching, Director of Labor and Industrial Relations. "We extend our appreciation to Elaine Chao, Secretary of Labor, and her staff for working closely with us on our grant application."

NEGs are discretionary awards from the Workforce Investment Act that must be approved by the Secretary of Labor, and are intended to temporarily expand service capacity at the state and local levels by providing time-limited funding assistance in response to significant dislocation events. Significant events are those that create a sudden need for assistance that cannot reasonably be expected to be accommodated within the on-going operations of the formula-funded Dislocated Worker program, including the discretionary resources reserved at the state level.

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